

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01472 261449Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8255
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1472

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK US ZA
SUBJ: RHODESIA: SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA SUGGEST VISITS TO ZAMBIA
AND OTHER FRONTLINE CAPITALS

REF: LUSAKA 1459

1. TUESDAY'S ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORTS THAT SITHOLE TOLD ITS REPORTER IN FORT VICTORIA, RHODESIA, THAT HE CONSIDERS ZAMBIA CRUCIAL TO ANY SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND SEEKS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH IT. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED PRIVATELY THAT SITHOLE ALSO TOLD THE REPORTER THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT LUSAKA.

2. THE SAME ARTICLE REPORTS THAT MUZOREWA SAID IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD INITIATE A FULL SCALE CAMPAIGN FOR RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE TRAVELING TO THE FRONTLINE STATES. HIS EXPERIENCE IN BOTSWANA, HE SAID, WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE HIM.

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3. I BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE ZAMBIANS TO ACCEPT VISITS BY SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA BILLED AS APPEALS FOR RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. NEVERTHELESS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ZAMBIANS AND OTHERS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK TO ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS AND THAT SO FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED THEY WOULD RECEIVE SITHOLE OR MUZOREWA ONLY TO DISCUSS THE RHODESIAN SITUATION IN THE CONTEXT

OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

4. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE ZAMBIANS AND PERHAPS OTHER FRONTLINE STATES TO GIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INDICATIONS AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, MAKING CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS. SUCH AN OCCASION COULD BE USED BY THEM TO ASSURE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS THAT THEY WERE STILL WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL IN ITS ORIGINAL OR MODIFIED FORM AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING TO A SETTLEMENT UNDER ITS PROVISIONS. THE OCCASION COULD ALSO BE USED FOR U.S. AND UK LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SEE THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE SAME VEIN. SUCH TALKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SITUATION AND HELP BREAK DOWN THE PRESENT IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THEY COULD ALSO HELP PREPARE FOR AN EVENTUAL ALL PARTIES MEETING. THEN IF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BEGINS TO COME APART, AS WE THINK IT MAY (REFTEL), WE WILL HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR REINTEGRATING SOME OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS BACK INTO A NEW ATTEMPT AT SETTLEMENT UNDER OUR PROPOSALS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF MY APPROACHING ZAMBIANS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW TOWARDS A VISIT FROM BOTH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA TO LUSAKA.
LOW

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